

## Book Review

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*Human Cytogenetics: A Practical Approach*. Edited by D. E. ROONEY and B. H. CZEPULKOWSKI. Oxford: IRL Press, 1986. Pp. 232. \$45.00 (cloth); \$28.00 (paper).

This is an excellent short volume in the IRL Press Practical Approach Series. It very comprehensively covers all aspects of chromosome preparation and analysis that are required for both routine and specialized clinical cytogenetic procedures. I recommend it highly for a prominent place on the bookshelves of all human-cytogenetics laboratories. It will be a very valuable addition, as well, to laboratories in which cytogenetic techniques may be used only on a sporadic basis. The lucid writing and easy-to-follow procedures will be a good aid toward achieving high-quality cytogenetic results in such situations.

The first three chapters deal with preparative techniques, including the handling and harvesting of various tissue types for cytogenetic analysis, and provide a comprehensive review of chromosome-banding techniques. Here, as elsewhere in the volume, there is a good emphasis on practical hints and troubleshooting.

Chapter 4, by J. A. Jonasson, is a well-written "personal account" of the analysis and interpretation of karyotypes, with a very proper emphasis on proper communication of results to referring physicians. It can stand on its own as an excellent introduction of the clinical cytogenetics laboratory to new technical personnel. I must note, however, that many cytogeneticists would take exception to the suggestion that cutout karyotypes should not be prepared for routine clinical cases.

The final three chapters cover the specialized techniques of cancer cytogenetics, meiotic preparations, in situ hybridization, chromosome analysis in hybrids, and flow cytometry.

There has been a good selection of authors for the seven chapters and very good editing to maintain coherence throughout the volume. It would be well placed alongside the laboratory manual of any human-cytogenetics laboratory.

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